THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: CHRIS J. CAVANAUGH : Date: March 4, 2003

Serial No.: 09/932,018 :

Filed: August 18, 2001 : Group Art Unit: 3723

For: UNIVERSAL HOLDING FIXTURE :

: Examiner: Lee Wilson

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

      Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following Claims to read as indicated.

C1

    1. A universal holding fixture for holding an object, comprising:

    a plurality of dual axis clamps that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to two rods to form an articulated structure, which rods and clamps are rotatable, slidable and lockable relative to each other to position the rods at varying and arbitrary angles relative to each other, and wherein selected rods are suitably positioned and secured to hold the object.

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-C2-

    3. The fixture recited in Claim 2 wherein a fixed rod is secured to the base and the articulated structure comprises eight dual axis clamps that are rotatable, slidable and lockable to six rods.

C3

    5. The fixture recited in Claim 1 wherein the articulated structure comprises eight dual axis clamps that are rotatable, slidable and lockable to six rods.

    6. The fixture recited in Claim 5 further comprising two additional rods that are rotatable, slidable and lockable a selected one of the four rods by way of two additional dual axis clamps.

    7. The fixture recited in Claim 1 wherein the articulated structure comprises:

    a plurality of first dual axis clamps that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to a fixed rod and that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to a second transverse rod;

    a plurality of second dual axis clamps that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to a respective second rod and that are each rotatable, slidable and lockable to a third rod that is disposed generally transverse to the respective second rod;

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